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Remarks at a White House Victory Celebration

November 6, 1996

Thank you. Thank you very much. Thank you. Well, you know, I really appreciate that lesson in history from the Vice President. *[Laughter]* I'll tell you one thing—you remember what John Nance Garner said about the Vice Presidency; he said it wasn't worth a warm—what—kettle of spit, or something like that. *[Laughter]* That's before Al Gore got a hold of it. Nobody will ever say that again—ever, ever, ever say that again.

And just for your information, George Clinton of New York, doubtless a relative of mine—*[laughter]*—the only man in America ever to be the Governor of a State in excess of 20 years. He served for 21 years as Governor of New York. He served 4 years and then laid out and served 17 years, until he became Vice President. And that's a pretty good record. *[Laughter]* It just sort of runs in the family, you know. *[Laughter]*

I want to tell you all—first to the White House staff and to all the appointees who are here; to the members of the Clinton/Gore campaign, from our wonderful campaign manager, Peter Knight, on down; and to the members of—the people who work for our Democratic Party campaign. I want to say a special word of thanks to Don Fowler and Chris Dodd; they did a wonderful job, all the people at the party; to our terrific Cabinet over here on the left. You know, they've labored for 4 years to uphold the dignity of our Government, and they sort of changed their image today. *[Laughter]* That picture of Warren Christopher in that T-shirt gets out—*[laughter]*—he'll be on Letterman and Leno within 48 hours. I thank you all so much.

Last night I had a chance to do something really quite wonderful for me. I was able to have a meeting with—when I was home in Arkansas—with everybody who ever worked for me there—at least we invited them all—the people who worked for me 20 years ago when I was attorney general, the people who worked for me during all my five terms as

Governor. And I told them something I want to tell you; that is I have always been a very hard-working, kind of hard-driving person. I'm always focused on the matter before me. Sometimes I don't say thank you enough. And I've always been kind hard on myself, and sometimes I think just by omission I'm too hard on the people who work here.

You have accomplished a phenomenal amount in the last 4 years, and you have proved that even in this vast country of ours, where the Government is only one part of our national partnership and billions upon billions of decisions are made every day by people who are not in our Government—thank goodness we are primarily a country of free individuals with a free enterprise system—but you have proved again something that was clearly in doubt in 1992 at election time. You have proved that with disciplined, sustained, focused effort, America can be changed for the better.

You have proved that our problems are not all intractable. You have proved that we can galvanize the energies of the American people and that we can, in fact, bring the deficit down—it's not a permanent feature of American life—we can, in fact, grow the economy on a sustained basis; we can, in fact, improve the education and the educational opportunities of our children; we can, in fact, lower the crime rate; and in fact, if people will help us enough in communities across the country, we can even help to change some of the very difficult cultural patterns that had begun to develop in our country over the last several years. You all did that.

Very often, I get the credit for the work you do, and then when something goes haywire, if I make a mistake, you have to try to figure out how to clean it up. *[Laughter]* And I appreciate that. *[Laughter]* And I'm sure I'll give you other opportunities in the year ahead. *[Laughter]*

I just want you to know, all of you, from the Cabinet to the staff, to the appointees, to all the others who are here, you should be very proud of this. This is not—this race was won because of the record we made and because of the plans we have and because we have established in the minds of the American people that it's more than talk with us, that we work at it hard every day. All

of us: we work hard. And in the end that's what sustained us—a vision, a strategy, hard work, and success. And we have a lot more work to do. But when our work is done and when there is 8 years of sustained, disciplined effort, we will have gone a long way toward preparing our country for this new century.

I can't even imagine what the world is going to be like, but I try to imagine it all the time, 20 or 30 or 40 years from now. And we are lucky enough to just be here at a moment in history when it is our profound obligation to move the American people closer to what they believe by opening up new opportunities for people to live out their dreams, and when we have the opportunity to prove that we can actually reduce our problems. We have to keep working on that.

We've got a lot to do. I talked a little about it last night. But I begin this new tenure with high opportunity and with renewed energy and with profound gratitude to the American people and to all of you. Two years ago, not many people thought we would be here. But I believed if we just kept doing the right things, kept trying to do them in the right way, and kept working hard and refused to be distracted by the things which dominate too much of our public life today, in the end the American people would render the right judgment.

I am profoundly grateful for what they did last night and very very grateful to all of you for making it possible.

Thank you, and God bless you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 4:25 p.m. on the South Lawn at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Donald L. Fowler, chairman, and Senator Christopher J. Dodd, general chairman, Democratic National Committee.

**Executive Order 13023—
Amendments to Executive Order
12992, Expanding and Changing the
Name of the President's Council on
Counter-Narcotics
November 6, 1996**

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, including section 301 of title 3, United States Code, and in order

to change the name of the "President's Council on Counter-Narcotics" to the "President's Drug Policy Council" and to make the Secretaries of the Interior, Agriculture, Health and Human Services, Housing and Urban Development, Education, Veterans Affairs, and the Assistant to the President for Domestic Policy, permanent members of the Council, it is hereby ordered as follows:

Section 1. The Council established by Executive Order 12992 shall henceforth be called the "President's Drug Policy Council."

Sec. 2. Section 1 of Executive Order 12992 is amended by deleting "President's Council on Counter-Narcotics" and inserting "President's Drug Policy Council" in lieu thereof.

Sec. 3. Section 2 of Executive Order 12992 is amended to read as follows:

"Sec. 2. Membership. The Council shall comprise the:

- "(a) President, who shall serve as Chairman of the Council;
- "(b) Vice President;
- "(c) Secretary of State;
- "(d) Secretary of the Treasury;
- "(e) Secretary of Defense;
- "(f) Attorney General;
- "(g) Secretary of the Interior;
- "(h) Secretary of Agriculture;
- "(i) Secretary of Health and Human Services;
- "(j) Secretary of Housing and Urban Development;
- "(k) Secretary of Transportation;
- "(l) Secretary of Education;
- "(m) Secretary of Veterans Affairs;
- "(n) Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations;
- "(o) Director of the Office of Management and Budget;
- "(p) Chief of Staff to the President;
- "(q) Director of National Drug Control Policy;
- "(r) Director of Central Intelligence;
- "(s) Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs;
- "(t) Counsel to the President;
- "(u) Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff;
- "(v) National Security Advisor to the Vice President; and
- "(w) Assistant to the President for Domestic Policy.